

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA
EASTERN DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ALEX MERLE THURN,

Defendant.

No. 24-CR-1025 CJW-MAR

**ORDER REGARDING MAGISTRATE
JUDGE'S REPORT AND
RECOMMENDATION
CONCERNING DEFENDANT'S
GUILTY PLEA**

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

On July 25, 2024, a one-count Indictment was filed against defendant. On December 30, 2024, defendant appeared before United States Magistrate Judge Mark A. Roberts and entered a conditional plea of guilty to count one of the Indictment. On December 30, 2024, Judge Roberts filed a Report and Recommendation in which he recommended that defendant's guilty plea be accepted and also on December 30, 2024, defendant filed a waiver of objections to Report and Recommendation. Judge Roberts then filed an Amended Report and Recommendation on December 31, 2024. The Court, therefore, undertakes the necessary review of Judge Roberts' recommendation to accept defendant's plea in this case.

II. ANALYSIS

Pursuant to statute, this Court's standard of review for a magistrate judge's report and recommendation is as follows:

A judge of the court shall make a de novo determination of those portions of the report or specified proposed findings or recommendations to which objection is made. A judge of the court may accept, reject, or modify, in whole or in part, the findings or recommendations made by the magistrate judge.

28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(C). Where parties make no objections to a magistrate's report and recommendation, the Court reviews the magistrate's report and recommendation for clear error. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A). Similarly, Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 59(b) provides for review of a magistrate judge's report and recommendation on dispositive motions, where objections are made, as follows:

The district judge must consider de novo any objection to the magistrate judge's recommendation. The district judge may accept, reject, or modify the recommendation, receive further evidence, or resubmit the matter to the magistrate judge with instructions.

FED. R. CRIM. P. 59(b)(3).¹

In this case, defendant filed a waiver of objections to the report and recommendation, and it appears to the Court upon review that Judge Roberts' findings and conclusions are not clearly erroneous. Therefore, the Court **ACCEPTS** Judge Roberts' Amended Report and Recommendation of December 31, 2024, and **ACCEPTS** defendant's conditional plea of guilty in this case to count one of the Indictment.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 31st day of December, 2024.



C.J. Williams, Chief Judge
United States District Court
Northern District of Iowa

¹ *United States v. Cortez-Hernandez*, 673 F. App'x 587, 590-91 (8th Cir. 2016) (per curiam), suggests that a defendant may have the right to de novo review of a magistrate judge's recommendation to accept a plea of guilty even if no objection is filed.